



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Wadebridge Rural District  
Council

FOR THE YEAR 1943.



BODMIN :  
PRINTED BY W. H. PHILLIPS, FORE STREET.



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## TO THE WADEBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the Year 1943.

### **Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

Area (in acres)—88,064.

Population according to the Registrar General's estimate—14,370.

Number of inhabited houses end of 1943 according to the rate books—5,144.

Rateable value—£60,003.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£269-11-1.

### **Social Conditions.**

The district is an agricultural one ; china clay is worked in certain parts of the area.

The number of evacuees was variable owing to the tendency of children to return to their homes if the bombing seemed to lessen and to come back if things got worse again.

Most of the usual amenities of country life are in abeyance but in spite of all there is a general cheerfulness and hopefulness for a return of better times.

### Extracts from vital statistics of the year.

	M.	F.	Total
<b>Live Births</b>	104	106	210
Legitimate	99	102	201
Illegitimate	5	4	9

**Birth rate** per 1,000 of the estimated population —  
14·6

	M.	F.	Total.
<b>Still births—</b>	6	6	12
Legitimate	6	6	12

**Rate** per 1,000 live and still births—54.

	M.	F.	Total.
<b>Deaths</b>	99	104	203

**Rate** per 1,000 of the estimated population—14·1.

#### **Deaths of infants** under 1 year of age—

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths	2	2	4
Legitimate	2	2	4

**Death rate** per 1,000 live births—19·0

There were no deaths from Puerpural Sepsis or other maternal causes.

<b>Deaths</b> from Measles, all ages	...	1
Whooping Cough, all ages	...	Nil
Diarrhœa, under 2 years of age		Nil



The chief causes of death were—

	M.	F.	Total
Cancer	18	21	29
Heart disease	22	19	41
Other diseases of the circulating system	10	8	18
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	10	18	28
Influenza	2	3	5
Bronchitis	4	8	12
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Nephritis	3	4	7

Comparison of Birth and Death rates with those of  
England and Wales :—

		England and Wales.	
Birth rate	...	14.6	16.5
Death rate	...	14.1	12.1
Infantile death rate		19.	4.9

### **General provision of Health Services.**

Medical Officer of Health—J. H. Hobling (part time Officer) who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Bodmin, Public Vaccinator and Certifying Factory Surgeon.

### **Sanitary Inspectors and Surveyors.**

Western Area—Mr. J. D. Clerk.

Eastern Area—Mr. A. E. Bewes.

Both are full time Officers and hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

The St. John's Motor Ambulance stationed in Bodmin serves the district for ordinary cases of illness and in case of accidents.

The County Council have reserve Ambulances in case of need whilst local vehicles have been adopted to carry stretchers in case of emergency.

### **Nursing in the Home.**

The whole district is supplied with trained Nurses supplied by the County Nursing Association.

### **Hospitals.**

There are no voluntary hospitals.

Infectious cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital at St. Austell controlled jointly by the Wadebridge Rural District Council, The St Austell Urban and Rural District Councils.

This was closed during March and all cases treated in the County Isolation Hospital at Truro. This, I consider, will make for smoother working and greater efficiency.

The Sick Bay at Tredethy was closed in October. So many children returned to their homes during the year that it was considered redundant and arrangements made for any sick children to be treated at Newquay or Liskeard.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

There is a Child Welfare Centre and Clinic in Wadebridge and a Day Nursery for children under five years of age at Polzeath.

For Maternity cases there is an Emergency Nursing Home in Bodmin.

There are two Hostels in the district—one at Port Isaac and one in Wadebridge for children who for various reasons may be unfit for an ordinary billet; but most of them improve amidst healthy surroundings and regular habits.

### **Sanitary circumstances of the area.**

**Drainage and sewerage**—Only minor works and extensions are possible under existing conditions.

### **Water supply.**

This remains as before but the Council are alive to the necessity of pushing on with the DeLank scheme as soon as possible.

### **Public Cleansing.**

There is a regular collection of household refuse which is dealt with by controlled tipping.

### **Housing.**

There is a shortage of houses but the Council have arrangements for starting building at the earliest opportunity.



## **Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.**

Infectious diseases are treated in the Isolation Hospital, Truro.

There were no serious epidemics, the cases being spread over the district.

Most of the cases of Whooping Cough occurred in a large Boarding School for girls.

An outbreak of Influenza in December, which only lasted a short time, was the cause of most of the deaths from Pneumonia.

Of the eight cases of Diphtheria notified, four were in one family. There were no deaths.

### **Diphtheria Immunization.**

Parents are encouraged to have their children from 1 to 15 years of age immunized free of expense. The Council pays the Doctors at the rate of 2/6 for each injection.

In the rural areas it is often very difficult for parents to take their children to visit the Doctor who may live some miles off. This difficulty is got over by visiting the Schools and doing the children there. The parents readily give their consent and there is no trouble with the children themselves who seem to look at the whole proceeding as rather a pleasing interlude in school life.

Parents are also invited to bring any children under 5 at the same time and a few have availed themselves of the opportunity.

### Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Total deaths.
Enteric	1	0
Scarlet Fever	30	0
Whooping Cough	24	1
Diphtheria	8	0
Erysipelas	1	0
Measles	10	0
Pneumonia	12	3
Puerpural Pyrexia	3	0

### Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during the year—

Age period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	0
35	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total—	1	3	3	3	2	2	0	0

No action was taken under the Public Health Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. HOBLING,

Medical Officer of Health.

